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NIXON & VANDERHYE, PC
901 NORTH GLEBE ROAD, 11TH FLOOR
ARLINGTON, VA 22203

EXAMINER

LAY, MICHELLE K

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| ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
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2672

DATE MAILED: 11/28/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

| | | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--|
| Office Action Summary | Application No. 10/663,742 | Applicant(s) HAMAMURA ET AL. | |
| | Examiner Michelle K. Lay | Art Unit 2672 | |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 September 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 and 7-23 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 and 7-23 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 17 September 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Information Disclosure Statement

The information disclosure statement (IDS) submitted on 08 September 2004. Examiner apologizes for not seeing the European Search Report listed. The information disclosure statement is being considered by the examiner.

Response to Amendment

The amendment filed on 19 September 2005, has been entered and made of record. The amended specification overcomes the drawing objection made in the Non-Final office action filed 17 May 2005. Claim 6 has been cancelled. Claims 1-5, and 7-23 are pending.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 19 September 2005 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicant argues the prior art (US Patent No. 6,507,358 to Mori et al.) does not teach or suggest the three-dimensional and two-dimensional shrunken images displayed on the same screen as amended in independent claims 1, 10, and 11. However, Applicant's remarks fail to point out where in the Applicant's disclosure this "same screen" limitation is supported. Furthermore, Applicant's specification discloses the use a display that employs a liquid crystal device for a slit, as shown in Japanese Patent Laying-Open No. 5-122733. As disclosed starting on line 26, page 6 of Applicant's disclosure:

“Display portion 10 switches between a 2D mode where the slit liquid crystal device is turned off for 2D image display and a 3D mode where the slit liquid crystal device is turned on for 3D image display. This mode switching is performed through an operation of mode button 19.”

Therefore, if this display is employed within Applicant's system, it would be difficult for both the 2D and 3D shrunken images to be displayed on the same screen considering mode switching is needed in order to display either 3D or 2D images.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

Claims 1-5, and 7-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter that was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention.

Referring to claims 1, 10, and 11, “same screen” is not supported in the specification. As stated in “Response to Arguments” section above, Applicant's specification discloses the use a display that employs a liquid crystal device for a slit, as shown in Japanese Patent Laying-Open No. 5-122733. As disclosed starting on line 26, page 6 of Applicant's disclosure:

"Display portion 10 switches between a 2D mode where the slit liquid crystal device is turned off for 2D image display and a 3D mode where the slit liquid crystal device is turned on for 3D image display. This mode switching is performed through an operation of mode button 19."

Therefore, if this display is employed within Applicant's system, it would be difficult for both the 2D and 3D shrunken images to be displayed on the same screen considering mode switching is needed in order to display either 3D or 2D images.

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims **1-5**, and **7-23** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claims **1**, **10**, and **11** recites the limitation "same screen". It is unclear how the 2D and 3D shrunken image is to be displayed on the same screen when Applicant's specification discloses the use a display that employs a liquid crystal device for a slit, as shown in Japanese Patent Laying-Open No. 5-122733, where, "Display portion 10 switches between a 2D mode where the slit liquid crystal device is turned off for 2D image display and a 3D mode where the slit liquid crystal device is turned on for 3D image display. This mode switching is performed through an operation of mode button 19." [Disclosure, pp. 6, lines 26-34] There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim **23** recites the limitation "information processing equipment" in line 1. It is unclear what this type of equipment is. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim Objections

Claim **9** is objected to because of the following informalities: Claim 9 is said to be dependent on cancelled claim 6. It is assumed Applicant meant for claim 9 to be dependent to claim 1 and is considered as such. Appropriate correction is required.

Claims **22** and **23** are objected to because of the following informalities: It is unclear if both claims **22** and **23** are dependent on claim 11 or if they are independent claims that further limit the same image display device as claimed in claim 11 to a mobile phone (claim **22**) or an information processing equipment (claim **23**). If the claims are to be dependent on claim 11, it is advised the claims be written such as: "The image display device according to claim 11 wherein the image display device is a ... ". Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

1. Claims **1, 2, 5, 7-11, 19-21, 23** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Mori et al. (US Patent No. US 6,507,358 B1).

Mori et al. discloses a multi-lens pickup apparatus provided with plural image pickup systems an image display capable of displaying either stereoscopic or panoramic images. Thumbnails may be displayed corresponding to the stereoscopic or panoramic image [col. 3, line 63 – col. 4, line 5].

In regards to claim **1, 10** –

Referring to Fig. 5, the left and right image pickup systems (52), (53) are arranged in converging or parallel manner, in order to pick up images that can be observed stereoscopically, and the liquid crystal display (LCD) (54) is capable of stereoscopic display, so that the observer can observe, by the LCD (54), a stereoscopic image at a rate same as the image pickup rate [col. 7, lines 18-24]. It would have been known in the art at the time the invention was made that stereoscopic images are three-dimensional. Figs. 8A-C illustrate a stereoscopic image generated by the process circuit (66) shown in Fig. 6, wherein shown is a stereoscopic image (81) in the VRAM, a left image (82), and a right image (83) (claims **1, 10**). In order to display the stereoscopic image on the LCD (54), an interlaced image (81) has to be synthesized from the left and right images (82), (83) [col. 8, lines 3-9]. JPEG compression is employed where the compressed data is stored in the work memory (632) of Fig. 15 where the left and right compressed images are paired for file management [col. 14, lines 30-34]. Identification information for identifying the paired images is simultaneously recorded in the file management area. Also, there is recorded a thumbnail image together with the main image. The thumbnail image means a reduced

image, for example of a size of 80x60 pixels, in comparison with the main image (claims 1, 10) [col. 14, lines 35-39].

In regards to claim 2 –

It is possible to switch the system from the stereoscopic image pickup to the panoramic image pickup by changing the direction of the left and right image pickup images (52), (53) of Fig. 5 from the converging or parallel arrangement to the diverging arrangement [col. 8, lines 55-58]. The liquid crystal display (54) may be used for observing both the stereoscopic image and the panoramic image [col. 8, lines 63-64]. It would have been known in the art at the time the invention was made that a panoramic image is two-dimensional.

In regards to claim 5 –

As the thumbnail images stored in the work memory (632) (claim 5) of Fig. 15 are JPEG compressed, thumbnail images are selected and transmitted to the signal processing circuit (527), and displayed on the liquid crystal display (504) [col. 15, lines 12-15]. Within the thumbnail images prepared as a pair, either one is used for display. Fig. 17 shows the display state of thumbnail images (700) (claim 5) [col. 15, lines 19-21].

In regards to claim 7 –

Referring to Fig. 5, the left and right image pickup systems (52), (53) are arranged in converging or parallel manner, in order to pick up images that can be observed stereoscopically (claim 7), and the liquid crystal display (LCD) (54) is capable of stereoscopic display, so that the observer can observe, by the LCD (54), a stereoscopic image at a rate same as the image pickup rate [col. 7, lines 18-24]. It would have been known in the art at the time the invention was made that stereoscopic images are three-dimensional comprising of two, two-dimensional images, one being the left and the other being the right. Figs. 8A-C illustrate a stereoscopic image generated by the process circuit (66) shown in Fig. 6, wherein shown is a stereoscopic image (81) in the VRAM, a left image (82), and a right image (83) (claim 7). In order to display the stereoscopic image on the LCD (54), an interlaced image (81) has to be synthesized from the left and right images (82), (83) [col. 8, lines 3-9].

In regards to claim 8 –

As the thumbnail images stored in the work memory (632) of Fig. 15 are JPEG compressed, thumbnail images are selected and transmitted to the signal processing circuit (527), and displayed on the liquid crystal display (504) [col. 15, lines 12-15]. The liquid crystal display (504) is in a two-dimensional display mode, and flag information indicating the stereoscopic image is displayed together with the thumbnail image (claim 8) [col. 17, lines 15-18]. Within the thumbnail images prepared as a pair, either one is

used for display. Fig. 17 shows the display state of thumbnail images (700) [col. 15, lines 19-21].

In regards to claim 9 –

Referring to Fig. 5, the left and right image pickup systems (52), (53) (claim 9) are arranged in converging or parallel manner, in order to pick up images that can be observed stereoscopically, and the liquid crystal display (LCD) (54) is capable of stereoscopic display, so that the observer can observe, by the LCD (54), a stereoscopic image at a rate same as the image pickup rate (claim 9) [col. 7, lines 18-24]. It would have been known in the art at the time the invention was made that stereoscopic images are three-dimensional comprising of two, two-dimensional images, one being the left and the other being the right. Figs. 8A-C illustrate a stereoscopic image generated by the process circuit (66) shown in Fig. 6, wherein shown is a stereoscopic image (81) in the VRAM, a left image (82), and a right image (83) (claim 9) [col. 8, lines 3-9].

In regards to claim 11 –

Referring to Fig. 1, the multi-lens image pickup apparatus of Mori et al. that comprises a left (12) and right (13) image pickup system, a liquid crystal display (14), and a panoramic image (15) displayed on the LCD (claim 11: camera for capturing 2D images) [col. 5, lines 6-11]. Additionally, as shown in Fig. 5, the left and right image pickup systems (52), (53) are arranged in converging or parallel manner, in order to pick

up images that can be observed stereoscopically, and the liquid crystal display (LCD) (54) is capable of stereoscopic display, so that the observer can observe, by the LCD (54), a stereoscopic image at a rate same as the image pickup rate [col. 7, lines 18-24]. It would have been known in the art at the time the invention was made that stereoscopic images are three-dimensional. It is also possible to switch the system to the panoramic image pickup by changing the direction of the left and right image pickup images (52, 53) from the converging or parallel arrangement to the diverging arrangement. The LCD may be used for observing both the stereoscopic image and the panoramic image (claim 11: display 2D or 3D mode) [col. 8, lines 55-64]. Figs. 8A-C illustrate a stereoscopic image generated by the process circuit (66) shown in Fig. 6, wherein shown is a stereoscopic image (81) in the VRAM, a left image (82), and a right image (83) (claims 1, 10). In order to display the stereoscopic image on the LCD (54), an interlaced image (81) has to be synthesized from the left and right images (82), (83) [col. 8, lines 3-9]. JPEG compression is employed where the compressed data is stored in the work memory (632) of Fig. 15 where the left and right compressed images are paired for file management [col. 14, lines 30-34]. Identification information for identifying the paired images is simultaneously recorded in the file management area. Also, there is recorded a thumbnail image together with the main image. The thumbnail image means a reduced image, for example of a size of 80x60 pixels, in comparison with the main image (claim 11: thumbnail) [col. 14, lines 35-39].

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In regards to claim **14** –

The thumbnails are accompanied by either flag S indicating the stereoscopic image [col. 15, lines 22-25], or flag P, indicated the panoramic image [col. 16, lines 58-60].

In regards to claim **15** –

The image pickup system of Mori et al. comprises VRAM which stores both the panoramic and stereographic images. Additionally identification information for identifying the paired images is simultaneously recorded in the file management area. Also, there is recorded a thumbnail image together with the main image. The thumbnail image means a reduced image, for example of a size of 80x60 pixels, in comparison with the main image (claim **11**: thumbnail) [col. 14, lines 35-39]. The thumbnails are accompanied by either flag S indicating the stereoscopic image [col. 15, lines 22-25], or flag P, indicated the panoramic image [col. 16, lines 58-60].

In regards to claim **19** –

In Fig. 17, there are thumbnails shown (700). Based on the displayed thumbnail images, the operator selects an image file to be reproduced and enters an instruction into the camera control unit (634) [col. 15, lines 22-27].

In regards to claim **20** –

At the recording of the panoramic image, a thumbnail is prepared and recorded [col. 16, lines 32 – 34]. Fig. 19 shows the display state of the thumbnail images of the

panoramic images, illustrating thumbnail images (800). The thumbnail image of the panoramic image is synthesized by calculating the overlapping area size for the thumbnail image, based on the overlapping area size of the main images [col. 16, lines 37 – 42].

In regards to claim 21 –

It is possible to switch the system from the stereoscopic image pickup to the panoramic image pickup by changing the direction of the left and right image pickup images (52), (53) of Fig. 5 from the converging or parallel arrangement to the diverging arrangement (claim 6) [col. 8, lines 55 – 58]. The liquid crystal display (54) may be used for observing both the stereoscopic image and the panoramic image [col. 8, lines 63 – 64]. It would have been known in the art at the time the invention was made that a panoramic image is two-dimensional.

In regards to claim 23 –

Referring to Fig. 5, the left and right image pickup systems (52), (53) are arranged in converging or parallel manner, in order to pick up images that can be observed stereoscopically, and the liquid crystal display (LCD) (54) is capable of stereoscopic display, so that the observer can observe, by the LCD (54), a stereoscopic image at a rate same as the image pickup rate [col. 7, lines 18-24].

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mori et al. (US Patent No. US 6,507,358 B1) in view of Takiguchi (US Patent No. US 6,868,192 B2).

Mori et al. discloses the claimed limitations of claim 3 with the exception of teaching cutting portions of data that exceeds the size of the shrunken image. However, Takiguchi discloses an image processing apparatus where a reduced image is generated by cropping a section of the target image when the target image is sufficiently laterally wide or vertically long.

Mori et al. discloses a multi-lens pickup apparatus provided with plural image pickup systems an image display capable of displaying either stereoscopic or panoramic images. Thumbnails may be displayed corresponding to the stereoscopic or panoramic image [col. 3, line 63 – col. 4, line 5].

Takiguchi discloses an image processing apparatus in which is case of a laterally-wide or vertically-long image, the user can easily and certainly recognize it by a thumbnail display [col. 3, lines 1-2]. As shown in Fig. 1, a terminal apparatus (100) comprises a personal computer having a function such that a number of images obtains by external equipment such as scanner, digital camera, or the like are fetched into the

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apparatus by activating image management list display software and displayed as a list (thumbnail display) [col. 3, line 68 – col. 4, line 4]. The terminal apparatus (100) has a display (102) for displaying various data [col. 4, lines 5-7]. Shown in Fig. 2, the image management list display process unit (201) fetches a number of images obtained by the external equipment into the terminal apparatus (100), managing those images, and displaying a list of them (thumbnail display) [col. 4, lines 50-54]. The image management list display process unit (201) performs a reducing process to the target image file in the memory so that the target image file goes in the thumbnail frame of a predetermined size, and adds the target image file after completion of the reducing process as thumbnail data into the thumbnail file (302) shown in Fig. 3 [col. 6, lines 7-12]. The image list display process unit (201) displays a list of the thumbnail data in the thumbnail file (302) onto the window (902) of Fig. 11 in the picture plane (900) displayed by the display (102) of Fig. 1 through the drawing management process unit (207) and video I/F (213) [col. 6, lines 55-59]. Referring to the flowchart in Fig. 5, the image management list display process unit (201) discriminates whether an aspect ratio of the image (601) shown in Fig. 6 is larger than a predetermined value or not [col. 7, lines 3-5]. If the ratio of the lateral size X and vertical size Y of the image (601) is larger than a predetermined value, the image management list display process unit (201) picks out the image in which the ratio of the lateral size Z and vertical size Y is equal to the predetermined value from the mid section of the image (601) and generates it (claim 3) [col. 7, lines 24-32]. If the aspect ratio of the image (601) is not larger than the predetermined value, the image management list display process unit (201) performs a

reducing process to the image (601) itself so as to go in a thumbnail frame (602) of a predetermined size (claim 3) [col. 7, lines 40-44].

Therefore, it would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to include the cropping feature of Takiguchi with the invention of Mori et al. so that in case of a laterally-wide or vertically-long image, the user can easily and certainly recognize it by a thumbnail image [col. 3, lines 1-2].

3. Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mori et al. (US Patent No. US 6,507,358 B1) in view of "The Authoritative Dictionary of IEEE Standards, 7th edition".

Mori et al. teaches the claimed limitations of claim 4 with the exception of disclosing the image data as bitmap data. Figs. 8A – 8C illustrate a stereoscopic image generated by the process circuit (66) of Fig. 5, wherein shown is a stereoscopic image (81) in the VRAM, a left image (82), and a right image (83). In order to display the stereoscopic image on the liquid crystal display (54), an interlaced image (81) has to be synthesized from the left and right images (82), (83) [col. 8, lines 3-7]. The system of Mori et al. would have been considered a digital system where the images captured by the left and right image pickup systems (52), (53) would be a digital image. It would have been known to one in the art at the time the invention was made that a digital image is made up of an array of pixels, where each pixel has an associated value [IEEE: pg. 306]. Furthermore, it would have been obvious to one in the art at the time the invention was made to consider the right and left image data generated by the process circuit (66) to

be bitmap data since a bitmap contains a block of memory that stores a raster image where the characteristics of each pixel are determined by a set of bits [IEEE: pg. 104]. The VRAM (28) would have provided a means to store the image data to be displayed on the LCD (54).

4. Claims **12** and **13** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mori et al. (US Patent No. US 6,507,358 B1).

Mori et al. teaches the limitations of claim **12** and **13** with the exception of explicitly teaching the thumbnails of the 3D image comprising portions of both the corresponding left- and right-eye images (claim 12) and arranging the left- and right-eye images side-by-side.

In regards to claim **12** –

Referring to Fig. 5, the left and right image pickup systems (52), (53) are arranged in converging or parallel manner, in order to pick up images that can be observed stereoscopically, and the liquid crystal display (LCD) (54) is capable of stereoscopic display, so that the observer can observe, by the LCD (54), a stereoscopic image at a rate same as the image pickup rate [col. 7, lines 18-24]. It would have been known in the art at the time the invention was made that stereoscopic images are three-dimensional. Figs. 8A-C illustrate a stereoscopic image generated by the process circuit (66) shown in Fig. 6, wherein shown is a stereoscopic image (81) in the VRAM, a left image (82), and a right image (83). In order to display the stereoscopic image on

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the LCD (54), an interlaced image (81) has to be synthesized from the left and right images (82), (83) [col. 8, lines 3-9]. JPEG compression is employed where the compressed data is stored in the work memory (632) of Fig. 15 where the left and right compressed images are paired for file management [col. 14, lines 30-34]. Identification information for identifying the paired images is simultaneously recorded in the file management area. Also, there is recorded a thumbnail image together with the main image. The thumbnail image means a reduced image, for example of a size of 80x60 pixels, in comparison with the main image (claim 11: thumbnail) [col. 14, lines 35-39]. Since the main image is made of both the left and right-eye images, it would have been obvious for the thumbnail to also be made from both the left- and right-eye images because the left- and right-eye image data is kept separate, such as during the JPEG compression.

In regards to claim 13 –

Since the thumbnails are based on the original image data, i.e. the stereographic data, the thumbnails contain both the left- and right-eye images. Furthermore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art that the left- and right-eye images be placed next to each other in order to form the stereoscopic image. Additionally, the thumbnail image means a reduced image, for example of a size of 80x60 pixels, in comparison with the main image (claim 11: thumbnail) [col. 14, lines 35-39]. Therefore, the original image data is reduced to a specified size.

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michelle K. Lay whose telephone number is (571) 272-7661. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday, 7:00am - 4:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Razavi can be reached on (571) 272-7664. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Michelle K. Lay
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 2672

11.18.2005


RICHARD HJERPE
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600

11/23/05